

MARYLAND REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
Internal Listing Notice

Inventory No. CAR-288

Maryland Historical Trust
Office of Research, Survey, and Registration
100 Community Place
Crownsville, Maryland 21032-2023
410-514-7644

The following property is listed in the Maryland Register of Historic Properties:

Name Chambers Park Log Cabin

Address Chambers Park

Town Federalsburg County Caroline

Category: ☒ building(s) ☐ district ☐ site ☐ object ☐ structure

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Area(s) of significance architecture
(see NR Bulletin 16A) entertainment/recreation

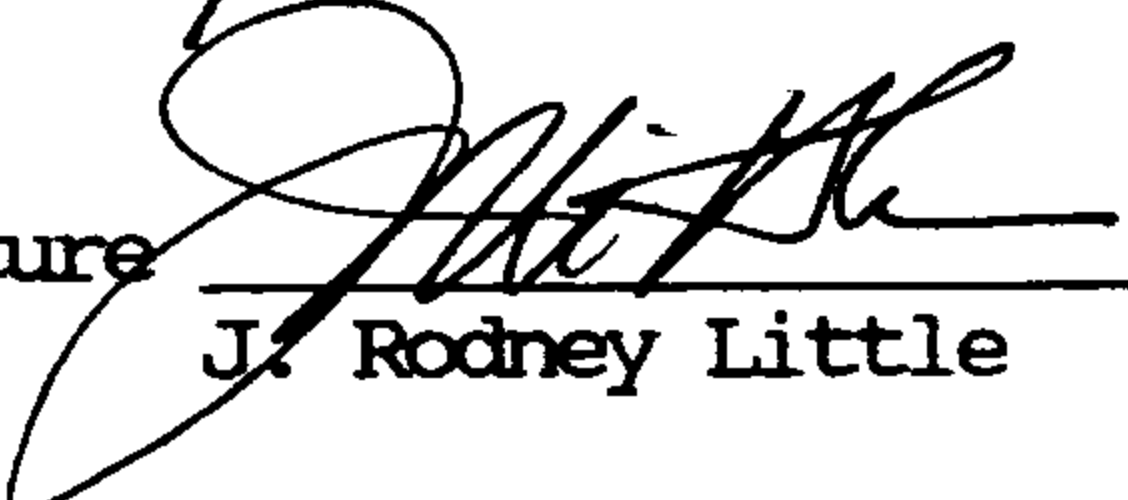
Period(s) of significance 1936

Specific date(s) of significance 1936

Brief statement of significance

The Chambers Park Log Cabin is significant as an example New Deal park architecture more commonly associated with western Maryland parks than those on the eastern shore. The cabin is also one of the few examples of New Deal projects on the shore. The building has a high level of integrity of historic character.

Date of decision 12/7/93

Director's signature 
J. Rodney Little

Inventory No. _____

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: ☒ Eastern Shore ☐ Western Shore ☐ Piedmont
☐ Western Maryland

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

- ☐ Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 BC
- ☐ Early Archaic 7500-6000 BC
- ☐ Middle Archaic 6000-4000 BC
- ☐ Late Archaic 4000-2000 BC
- ☐ Early Woodland/Archaic 2000-500 BC
- ☐ Middle Woodland 500 BC-900 AD
- ☐ Late Woodland 900-1600 AD
- ☐ Contact and Settlement 1570-1750 AD
- ☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification 1680-1815 AD
- ☐ Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870 AD
- ☐ Industrial-Urban Dominance 1870-1930
- ☒ Modern Period 1930 AD - present

Prehistoric Themes:

- ☐ Subsistence
- ☐ Settlement
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Demographic
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Environmental Adaptation

Historic Themes:

- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Architecture-Landscape Architecture-Community Planning
- ☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- ☐ Government-Law
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Religion
- ☒ Social-Education-Cultural
- ☐ Transportation

Resource Type:

Category: ☒ building(s) ☐ district ☐ site ☐ object ☐ structureHistoric Environment: ☒ urban ☐ suburban ☐ village ☐ rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

(take from NR Bulletin 16A, pp 20-23 giving category and subcategory)

recreation and culture/outdoor recreationKnown Design Source: Federal Gov't or ☐ noneNational Youth Administration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form may also be used for entering
properties into the Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties and the Maryland Register
of Historic Properties.

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Chambers Park Log Cabin (Preferred)

other names/site number Log Cabin in Federalsburg's Chambers Park

2. Location

street & number Chambers Park N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Federalsburg N/A ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code county Caroline code 011 zip code 21632

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National
Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Name of Property

CAR-288
site/inventory number

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
0	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

N/A

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Camp

Clubhouse

Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant not in use

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Prairie School

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood: Log

roof Asphalt shingles

other Formerly brick chimney. Now stone
chimney**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

PLACE NARRATIVE ON CONTINUATION SHEETS

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Registration Form: include in this title block the
property name, county, and site/inventory numberMultiple Property Documentation Form: include the
name of the multiple property listing**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1

CAR-288

The Chambers Park Log Cabin in Federalsburg, Maryland is a one-story log cabin with six open air windows covered by white shutters. The log cabin is a one-room building with an asphalt shingle roof. Original wood shingles are underneath the asphalt shingles. Inside the log cabin is a fireplace. The interior and exterior walls are made of logs. Originally, there was a brick chimney, and a rear entrance to the log cabin. However, in 1993, the brick chimney was removed because it was leaning and became a hazard. In replacing the brick chimney with a stone chimney, the rear entrance to the log cabin was permanently closed. The foundation of the log cabin is concrete with a concrete floor inside. Electricity (electric lights) are also available inside the log cabin. The entrance door is painted white and made of wood boards. A padlock secures the door. The building is 36 x 24 square feet.

The log cabin is located inside Chambers Park. Trees surround the log cabin and recreational equipment for small children is located within fifty feet of the cabin. Chambers Park is located near the downtown business district, and includes two little league baseball fields and several small structures for carnivals. The park was a gift to the Town by a former mayor, Thomas H. Chambers. He donated the land and a lake (also in the park and known as Chambers Lake) to the Town in 1922. Mr. Chambers was Mayor of Federalsburg from 1915 to 1947.

The log cabin in Chambers Park was constructed in 1936 by the National Youth Administration, and was part of President Roosevelt's New Deal Program for stimulating the economy and ending the Great Depression. The National Youth Administration (NYA) was one of several alphabet relief programs for putting people, especially the young, to work in the summer of 1937. While the NYA constructed the log cabin, another recovery alphabet program, the Works Progress Administration (WPA), developed the rest of the park and the lake. Private funds were raised for the playground equipment by the Town and Mayor Chambers.

During the late 1930's and until around 1970, the log cabin, Chambers Lake, and Chambers Park provided many youth and adults with a place to swim, play, and other forms of general recreation. After 1970, as more families became mobile, vacation-oriented and sought other leisure time type activities, Chambers Lake was abandoned as a favorite swimming and picnic area. However, the log cabin and park continued to be active until the late 1970's on a daily basis for small children to play.

From the late 1930's until the late 1960's, the log cabin was used by the Boy Scouts for their monthly meetings, by church groups, by families for picnics, birthday parties, and reunions, and for a variety of community functions that included fireman's carnivals, parades into the park, and children's games.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Registration Form: include in this title block the
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Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the
name of the multiple property listing

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

CAR-288

In the 1940's, 1950's, and early 1960's, two women were normally employed by the Town during the summer season to supervise recreational activities for children in Chambers Park. The log cabin was used for indoor games. Lunches, usually sandwiches and soda drinks, were served in the cabin on a daily basis. Birthday parties, church socials, family reunions, and civic club meetings were often held on a regular basis at or in the log cabin. In the late 1960's, public interest in the log cabin declined. By the late 1980's, the log cabin had fallen into disrepair and was described by many local residents as dilapidated. Graffiti inside the cabin, also detracted from the looks of the building and contributed to its decline in use by various groups.

In 1993, the Mayor and Council of Federalsburg began a plan to restore the log cabin. Monies were spent to replace the leaning gravity burdened brick chimney with a stone chimney. The rear entranceway into the cabin was also sealed off. Over the years, the wood-shingled roof was replaced by an asphalt-shingled roof, and the wooden shutters covering the windows have been replaced. These are the only structural modifications that have been completed to alter the original looks of the log cabin.

Chambers Park Log Labin

Name of Property

CAR-288

site/inventory number

Caroline County, MD

County and State

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1937-1970

Significant Dates**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/BuilderN/A. The building was constructed by the
NYA using one of their architects/builders.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the
name of the multiple property listing

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

CAR-288

The log cabin was built in 1937 using a design plan from the National Youth Administration, which built the log cabin, using local carpenters and laborers. The design for the log cabin was selected because of its location in a wooded, rural park setting adjacent to a lake.

The log cabin also reflected the style of housing and architecture prevalent in Federalsburg, when the Town was founded in 1779. This style of architecture was also popular in Federalsburg before 1850. The log cabin design used by the NYA for the log cabin built in Chambers Park was also a popular design used by the Civilian Conservation Corporation (CCC) in parks and rural areas across the nation in the 1930's. This once common structure is now rare as many parks and playgrounds have been remodeled since the 1960's.

1975 Form 2-200-1
2-200-1

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Registration Form: include in this title block the
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Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the
name of the multiple property listing

Section number _____ Page _____

CAR-288

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Modern period

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Community Building - Social Functions

Known Design Source: National Youth Administration

SAMPLE CHART

Name of Property

site/inventory number

County and State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property Less than one acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Dr. Conway Gregoryorganization Town of Federalsburg, MDdate 10/29/93street & number 118 North Main Street, P.O. Box 471telephone 410/754-8173city or town Federalsburgstate MDzip code 21632**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

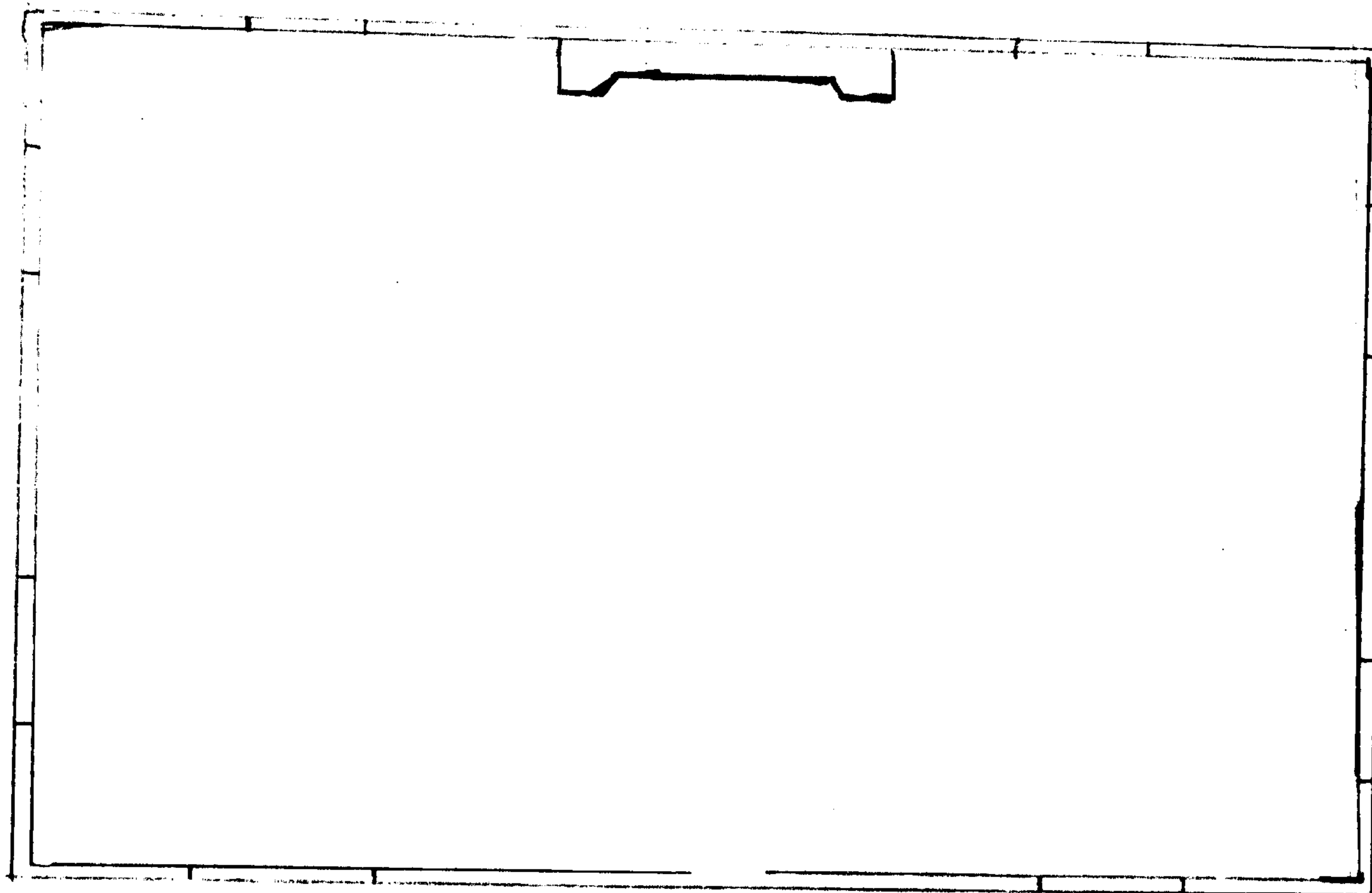
Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Federalsburgstreet & number 118 North Main Street, P.O. Box 471telephone 410/754-8173city or town Federalsburgstate MDzip code 21632

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



Floor plan of Log Cabin
Chambers Park
Federalburg, MD.
CAR-288

Conway Gregory
Oct. 26, 1993

Conway

Restoration planned for old log cabin

By LEON FUKSMAN
Times Dorchester Bureau

FEDERALSBURG — Mayor John Phillips knows the bowed chimney of the historic log cabin in Federalsburg's Chambers Park won't be around as long as the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

That's why he is planning a \$4,000 to \$5,000 renovation project that will, starting in October, rebuild the chimney as part of a larger plan to restore the boarded-up log cabin built during President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration.

"The chimney and the rest of the cabin is deteriorating to the point of becoming an eyesore," said Phillips. The cabin, which is surrounded by a playground, located in a wooded area, is on the verge of collapsing.

Today the dilapidated log cabin is covered with graffiti and partially closed off by barrier tape. Phillips said he hopes to transform the cabin to the condition of its heyday, when it was a community center used for Boy Scout meetings and birthday celebrations.

"Kids that are now adults here remember the parties at the cabin, and when you're a kid that's a big thing," Town Manager Richard Colburn said.

One of those children, now an

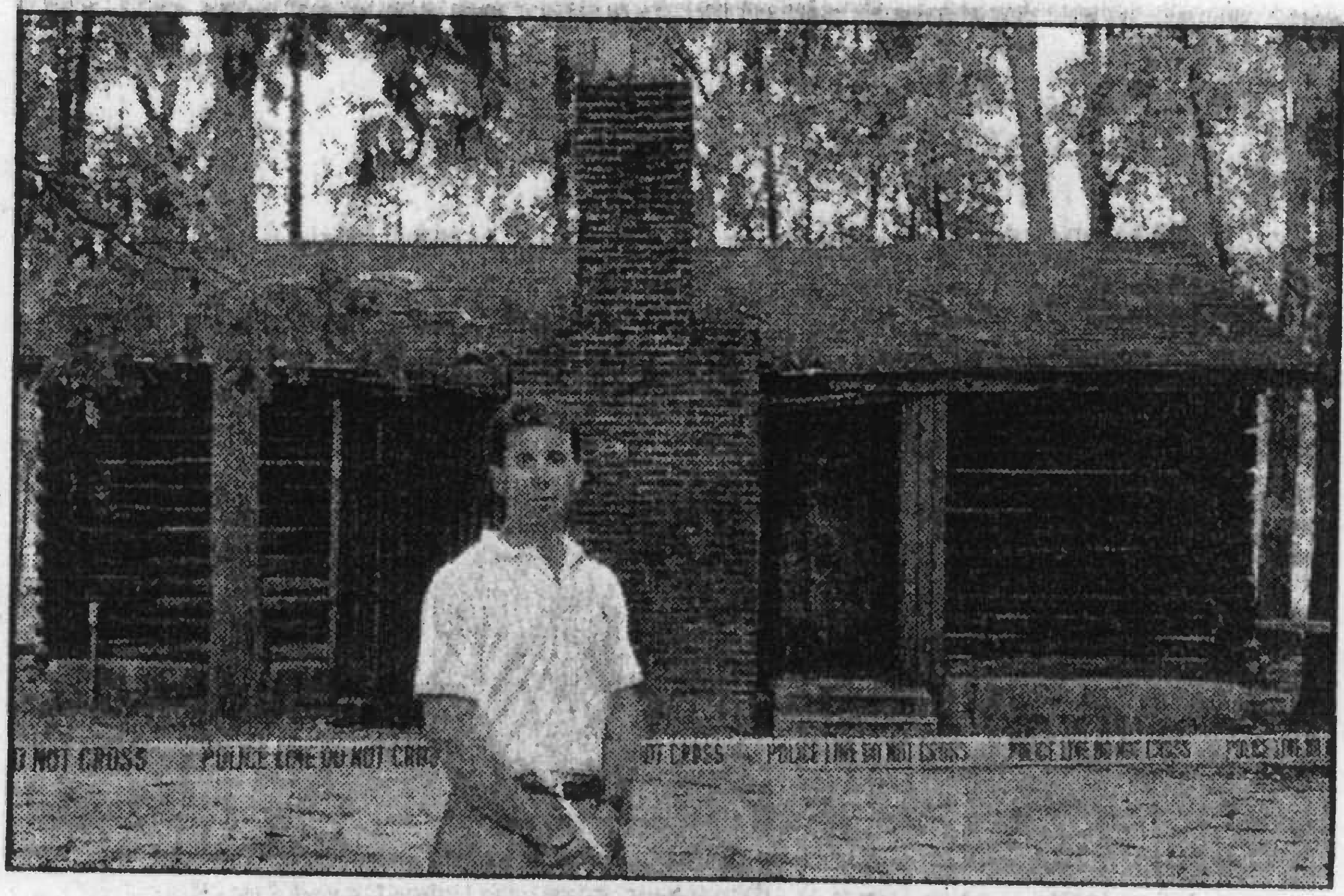
adult, is Federalsburg native Marvin Smith. He's one of few people in Federalsburg who knows the cabin was built by Roosevelt's National Youth Administration between 1937 and 1938.

Smith said the cabin was built for Boy Scouts, as an alternative to holding meetings on street corners in Federalsburg. Eventually, Smith said, the Boy Scouts took their meetings to Federalsburg's volunteer fire company, allowing the cabin to be used for community functions.

About a decade ago, the cabin was boarded up and closed to the public. Ever since, curious residents such as Holly Sappington, who brings her daughter, Morgan, to the park every week, have wondered what was inside the historic cabin.

This week's visit to the park made Sappington even more inquisitive. "I've been wanting to know why that police tape is there. All along, I've been wanting to know what was inside of there," she said.

Sappington is in favor of restoring the cabin and its gravity-burdened chimney, which she knows has a story, even if it's not quite as well known as the Leaning Tower of Pisa.



Times Photo by Leon Fuksman

RESTORATION PLANNED. Federalsburg Mayor John Phillips stands behind a vandalized log cabin in Federalsburg's Chambers Park. The cabin's chimney will undergo restoration in October.

Salisbury, MD
Daily Times

9/21

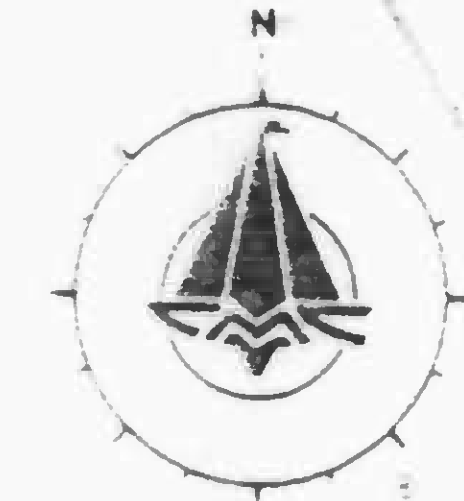
CAR-288

CAROLINE COUNTY, MARYLAND

118 N. MAIN STREET
FEDERALSBURG, MD 21632










TELEPHONE: (301) 754-8173

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SCALE 1 IN. EQUALS 1200 FEET
(APPROX.)

LEGEND

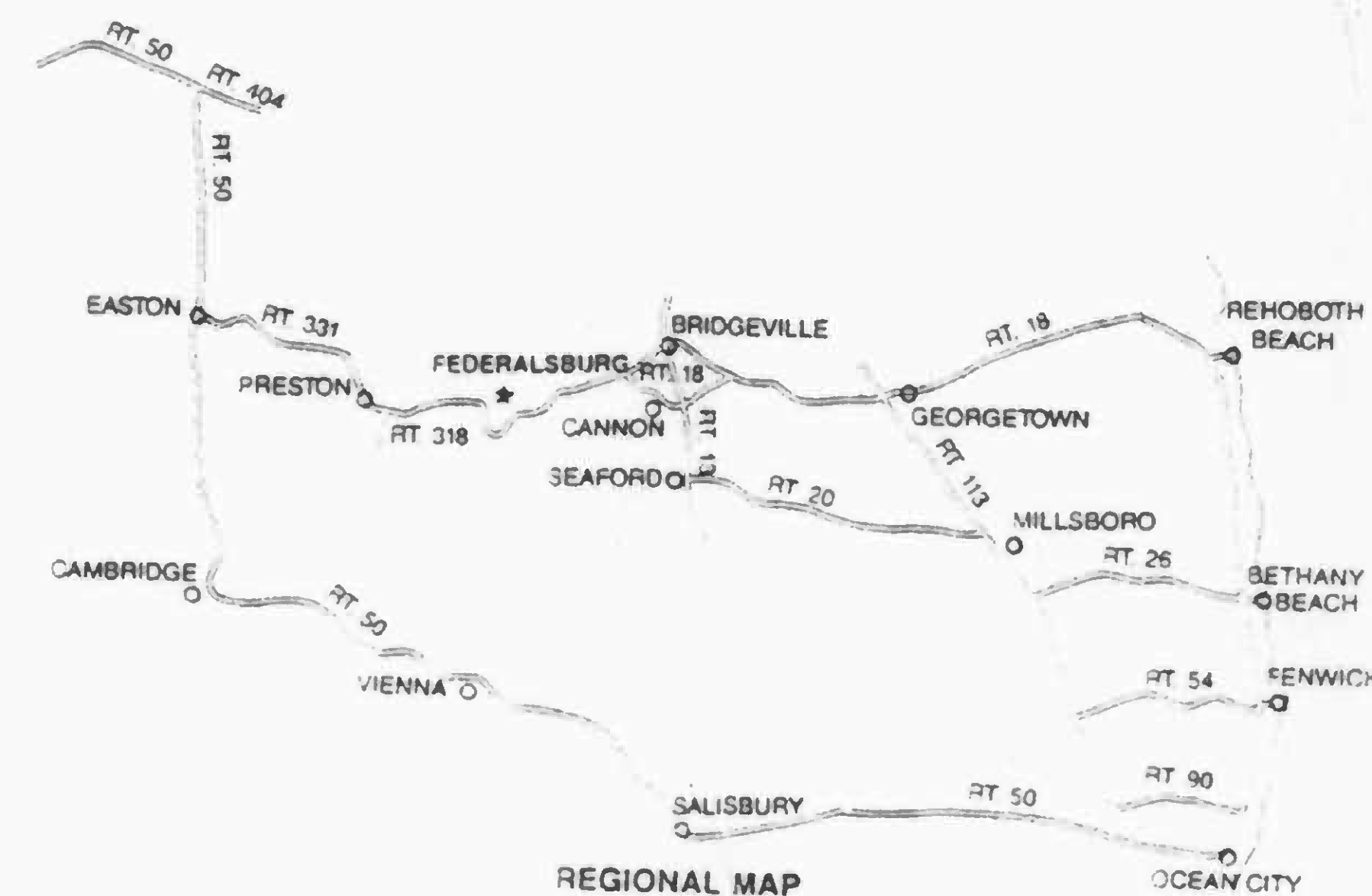
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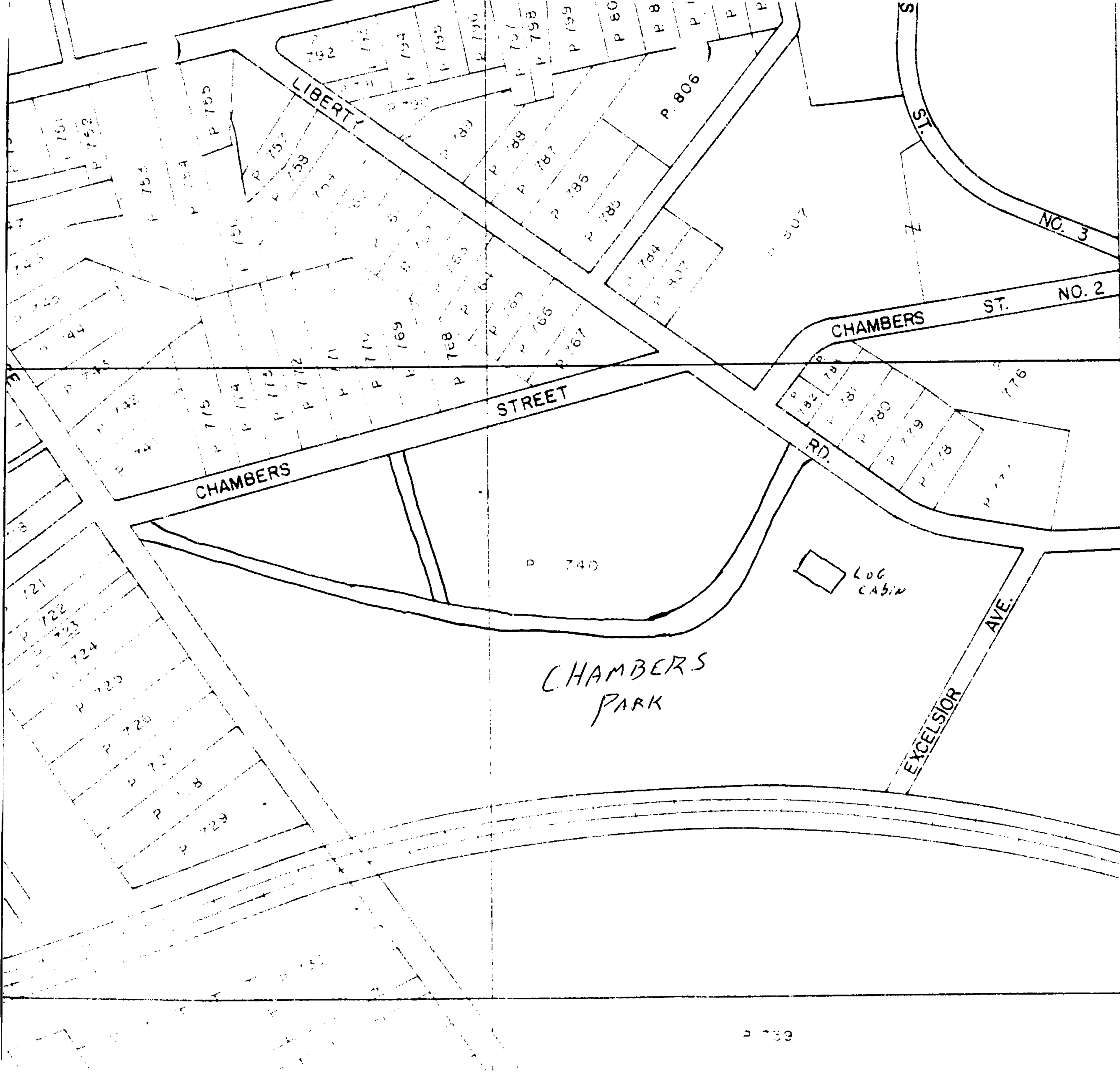
ZONING DISTRICTS

-  R-1 RESIDENTIAL
-  R-2 RESIDENTIAL
-  R-3 RESIDENTIAL
-  B-1 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS
-  C-1 GENERAL COMMERCIAL
-  ID-1 LIMITED (LIGHT) INDUSTRIAL
-  ID-2 GENERAL INDUSTRIAL (IND. PARKS)
-  PARK & OPEN SPACE
-  FLOOD PLAIN (LIMITED AREA NOTED)

TOWN SERVICES DIRECTORY (LISTED ON REVERSE SIDE)

Town of Federalsburg, MD
CR-288





TOWN OF
FEDERALSBURG

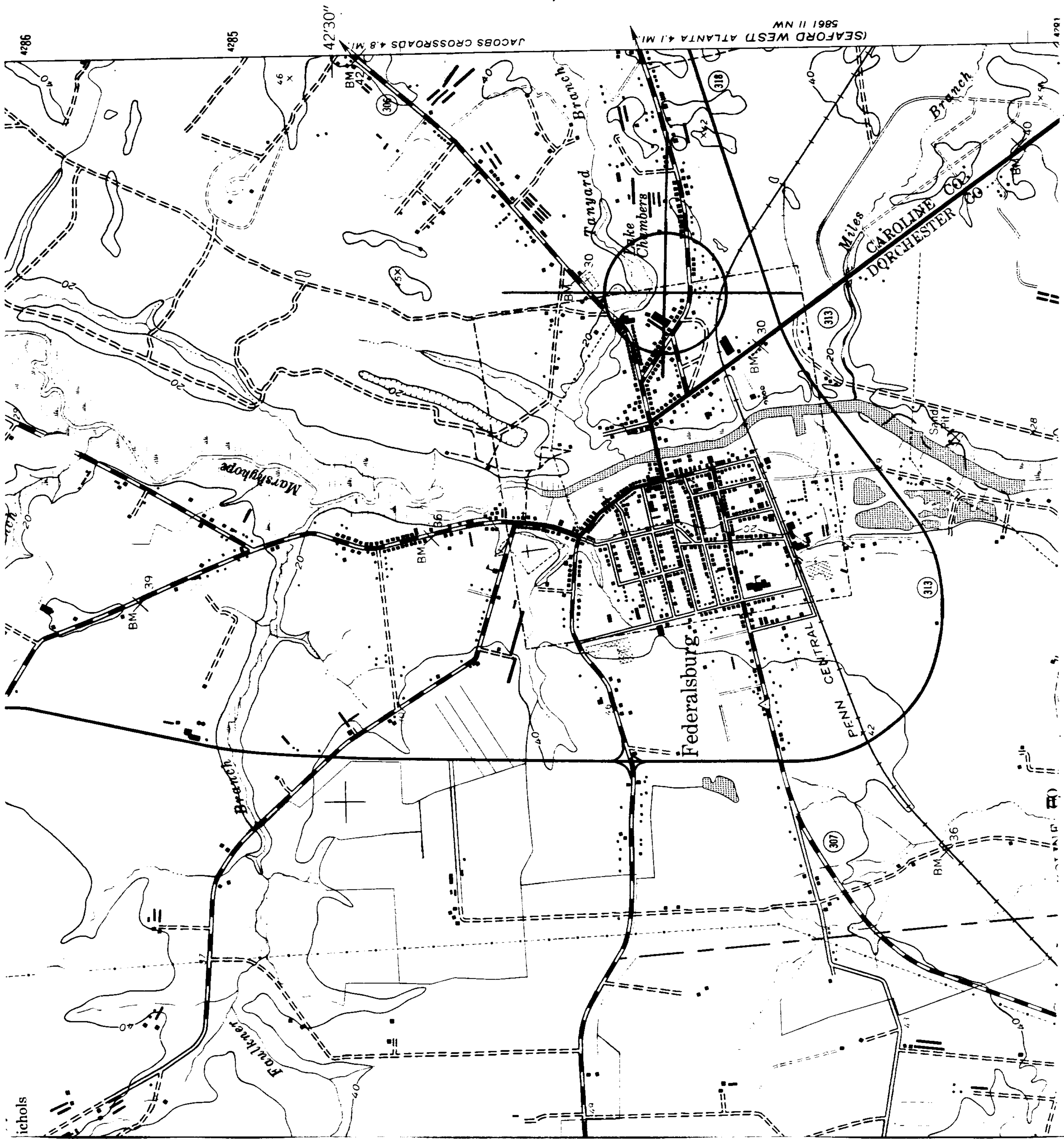
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